



File Code: 1950
Date: June 14, 2015

GALLATIN TRAVEL PLAN UTV CLARIFICATION

In October of 2006 the “Record of Decision” for the Gallatin National Forest Travel Management Plan (ROD) was signed. The Travel Plan ROD designates motorized use on specific roads and trails for recreation and general travel, including the type of vehicle that is allowed on designated routes and the time of year. The ROD followed several years of extensive public involvement and input from cooperating agencies. Since the time of the decision, the Forest has conducted implementation monitoring including observations around new types of vehicles.

In the 2006 Travel Plan decision, by definition a straddle seat and handlebar configuration were permitted on routes designated as open to motorized vehicles 50 inches or less in width. Since the Travel Plan decision, the motor vehicle industry has continued to develop off-highway vehicles with a wheelbase of 50 inches or less in width that have side-by-side seating and steering wheels. These types of vehicles meet the 50 inch requirement.

A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) sufficiency review of the Gallatin Travel Plan FEIS was conducted in light of this industry change and concluded that UTV’s less than 50” wide are “trail vehicles” within the scope of the definition of an ATV under Standard A-9 of the Travel Plan. Therefore, no correction, supplement, or revision of the Travel Plan FEIS is necessary. This conclusion was documented in the Gallatin National Forest Travel Management plan NEPA Sufficiency Review and Finding.

This clarifies that the use of vehicles 50 inches or less in width is permitted on roads and trails designated as open per the FEIS and ROD of the Gallatin Travel Management Plan. This designation is displayed on Forest Motor Vehicle use maps (MVUM).

